

26 OCT 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: NIE 11-14-78

1. I have just looked through the draft Terms of Reference for NIE 11-14-78. I am afraid that I have about the same concerns with this as I did with NIE 1-4-78. These "Terms of Reference" are nothing more than 10 pages of what should be entitled, "What I Always Wanted to Know About the Warsaw Pact Forces But Was Afraid to Ask." This is just a grab bag of everything and anything somebody can think of with emphasis on some of the prejudices of the analyst who wrote it. It is not an outlined plan; it would be impossible to cover all the topics listed in three or four years, in my opinion.

2. I believe to start out with this as the basic guidance would be a catastrophe. I know you are asking the NFIB for comments on this, but I don't see how anyone can work from this. I started to mark it up to try to be constructive, but I finally just gave up. The only way to work with this is to throw it out and start over again with a reasonable outline of what we are interested in in 1977/78, what we can possibly do in the 8-month period, and what is the logical structure for presenting it. I really recommend we go back to the drawing board and not waste the time of NFIB members in trying to grapple with an octopus like this.

3. Beyond that, I really hope that this is one where we will get a good set of outside consultants (including my penchant for somebody who knows nothing about the topic but would see the woods for the trees) and get them in on the act from the very beginning.

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